

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the deformation absorbing means is included in the end beam. This amendment is clearly supported in Fig. 1, as filed.

While the recitation "an instrument being supported by the end beam" has been changed to "the end beam being configured to support an instrument," such minor change is intended to only correct grammar, and not to modify the content of claim 1.

As the examiner suggested in the first Office Action, claim 2 has been amended to be rewritten in independent form and, therefore, is allowable.

No amendments have been made to claim 3 (dependent on amended claim 1) and claim 4 (dependent on amended claim 2).

The structural features defined in amended claim 1 are such that an end beam extending in a lateral direction of the railroad car is connected to end portions of the right and left side frames of an H-shaped, when viewed in plan, truck frame, and deformation absorbing means forms a part of the end beam and is located at both sides of a portion of the end beam where the instrument is supported. When the truck frame is deformed by torsion, the end beam typically tends to be greatly deformed without the deformation absorbing means, but in the structural features defined in amended claim 1, such torsion is absorbed and alleviated by the deformation absorbing means. As a result, the torsion is not applied to the portion of the end beam where the instrument is supported.

Fehrenback U.S. Patent No. 6,401,627 B1 ('627) discloses a truck for a railroad car (bogie for a rail vehicle) having an end frame and deformation absorbing means (cushion material) 18. However, it is clear that the end frame disclosed in the cited '627 reference is integral with the side frames as shown in Fig. 1, and hence the deformation absorbing means 18 does not form a part of the end frame. The deformation absorbing means 18 is provided at an end portion of a link 1 separate from the end frame. An instrument is connected to the end frame only through the link 1. In column 3, lines 27 to 31 of the cited '627 reference, "the portion of the link has a ball 16 which is received in a socket 17 which permits pivoting movement of the link in all three dimensions. Preferably, a cushion

material 18, such as rubber or plastic serves as a cushion for the ball." From this, it is clear that the deformation absorbing means 18 of the cited reference only serves as a cushion for the ball 16, and does not serve to absorb the torsion, unlike the structural feature of amended claim 1 of this application. In addition, in the structure of the cited '627 reference, since the end frame directly supports the instrument without the use of the link 1, unlike amended claim 1 of this application, the end frame is deformed if the side frames are deformed, and thereby torsion is applied to the portion of the end frame where the instrument is supported. Therefore, the invention disclosed in the cited '627 reference is completely different from that of amended claim 1 of this application, and does not provide the deformation-absorbing features of amended claim 1.

Further, the invention of the cited '627 reference is intended to adjust the radial position of end feel sets 3, whereas the invention now defined in amended claim 1 is intended to absorb deformation of the end beam which may be caused by torsion applied to the end beam.

It is submitted that those skilled in the art would not be motivated from the '627 reference to include applicants' deformation absorbing means on both sides of the end beam, as now defined in amended claim 1 of this application.

Since original claim 3 depends from amended claim 1, claim 3 is also patentable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Anderson U.S. Patent No. 6,924,654 ('654) discloses that each of the sensing devices 54 is chosen for detecting one of vertical, transverse or longitudinal movements of a car truck (see column 1, lines 34 to 36 in specification). In addition, the Anderson '654 patent only discloses that the sensing device 54 is in the form of an accelerometer (column 3, lines 55-65 in specification). Therefore, the sensing device 54 disclosed in the cited '654 reference is completely different from the antenna device (instrument) of claim 4 of this application, which transmits and receives a radio wave. It is submitted that the invention now defined in claim 4 would not have been obvious from the combination of the '627 and '654 references.

It is submitted that all claims are now of proper form and scope for allowance. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 19036/39691 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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